

Why "Hello World?"

In 1973, Brian Kernighan wrote the paper, "A Tutorial Introduction to the Language B." In it, Kernighan wrote several small B programs to illustrate important concepts. Many of these included obscure ways to print "Hello World" to the screen.

Tradition took over, and now almost every programming book includes a variation of these programs. Unlike the originals, the current "Hello World" is the simplest useful computer program – one that writes the sentence "Hello World." to the screen. In this introduction, I plan to give you the simplest possible introduction to computer programming that allows you to create something useful.

If history interests you, the "B" language quickly transformed into the very popular "C" language. Several years later, "C" evolved into one of today's most popular languages: C++.